



# News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
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Gary D. Maynard  
Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Change of Leadership Ceremony:  
New Warden to be Installed at Jessup Correctional Institution  
July 24 at 10 a.m.**

***Warden James Smith to Retire After 37 Years of Dedicated Service***

TOWSON, MD (July 13, 2007)---In an effort to better recognize the efforts of incoming and outgoing executives, Secretary Gary Maynard will henceforth preside over formal Change of Leadership ceremonies, as wardens and other key Public Safety leaders are appointed and/or retire. The first such ceremony will be held on Tuesday, July 24 at 10 a.m. at the Jessup Correctional Institution (JCI) on David McGuinn (House of Correction) Road off Maryland Route 175.

JCI Warden James Smith, a dedicated 37-year veteran of the Division of Correction, will retire. His replacement is another DOC veteran, Robert Koppel, who most recently has been Acting Warden at the nearby Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup. Mr. Koppel has 28 years of State service.

Outgoing Warden Smith began his career while he was still in school at Morgan State (now University) as a correctional officer at the Maryland Penitentiary in Baltimore in 1970. During his career, he has held every post, from line officer to supervisor, Security Chief, Assistant Warden, and Warden. "Mr. Smith has always worked hard for his staff and the inmates," says Acting Commissioner of Correction J. Michael Stouffer. "He was always truly concerned for the well-being of everybody. His dedication and devotion to his calling of corrections will be missed by the many whose lives he touched."

Incoming JCI Warden Koppel began as a line officer at the House of Correction in 1979, and, like Mr. Smith, he has held every post from Correctional Officer I to Warden. Says Acting Commissioner Stouffer: "Mr. Koppel has energy and expertise, and has achieved tangible results everywhere he's been. He always inspires his staff to reach high levels of performance."

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Gary Maynard, who took over as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in January, is a firm believer in recognizing the good work of both incoming and outgoing leaders.

"Too often, important leadership changes happen quietly," says the Secretary. "The outgoing leader never gets credit publicly for his or her accomplishments, and the new leader takes over more or less on his or her own. A change of leadership should be a highly significant event in the history of the prison, jail, or organization."

Community leaders and elected officials will be among those invited to attend the first Change of Leadership ceremony on July 24. A second such ceremony will occur three days later, when Carolyn Atkins is officially named warden of the nearby Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup, replacing Acting Warden Koppel.

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